

TECHNOLOGY HIGHLIGHTS

WIKIs

Making Life Easier for Parkland Faculty & Alleviating the Overload



DID YOU KNOW:

Wiki is the Hawaiian term for “quick.”

A wiki is “a collaborative website whose content can be edited by anyone who has access to it (American Heritage Dictionary).” Many people are familiar with the popular wiki, Wikipedia, an online reference encyclopedia that continually changes as members update information. Similar to Wikipedia, the Parkland CFF Wikispace encourages faculty to collaborate on a body of resources that can only be accessed by its members.

There are many sites that offer free wikis to educators. If educators do not want students to have the ability to edit the pages, educators can lock their wikis so that students can only see the information once they log in. This adds security to the online, educational environment. Educators can post course notes, student work, and other related materials without the public having access to those resources.

FREE EDUCATIONAL WIKIS



“Back in January 2006, [Wikispaces] decided to offer [its] Plus Plan to K-12 teachers for free. [Wikispaces] didn’t set out with a grand strategy, just an interest in helping teachers with [its] easy to use wiki technology (Wikispaces).” Recently, Wikispaces donated 250,000 free wikis for use in the classroom.

[Wikispaces](#)



“PBwiki hosts more classroom wikis than anyone else in the world, and lets you create a simple, secure wiki in about 60 seconds. [...] You can make your wiki public or private or anywhere in between. No matter what, PBwiki keeps your students information safe” (PBwiki).

[PBwiki](#)

CFF WIKISPACE

Once you [sign up](#) for a Wikispace account, be sure to visit Parkland’s CFF Wikispace, **even if you are not a CFF teacher**. You will need to request permission to become a member as the CFF space is locked, meaning it is not accessible to the public; only Parkland faculty can view its contents.

The CFF Wikispace is a hub of collaboration for Parkland faculty. The site allows Parkland faculty to upload documents and edit pages, enabling members to collaborate and share resources. Imagine how progressive we could be, working as a group to locate new websites and analyze credibility.

Supplemental information related to these monthly Technology Highlights, as well as the Highlights in electronic form, are located on the wiki to get you started. Please feel free to contact Jason Henry with any questions or to set up a demonstration for your department or class. Further, such topics as copyright, technology, and student work can be found on the [CFF Wikispace](#).

CLASS CORNER

Professional Learning Communities

Create a PLC wiki which can house all information related to your group's collaboration. The PLC wiki acts as a central location for your group to house and edit documents; this means that each individual will not need to maintain or disseminate information. Further, the wiki acts as a place for members to share instructional resources and ideas.

Create a Hub for Instruction

Consider uploading your notes on the wiki and link to any media resources that you will use during instruction. Remember, those of you with an interactive, White Board can have students interact with the notes and you can capture the progress with the save feature.

Pedagogical Tool

Use a wiki as a means to collect observational research from the pedagogical practices implemented in the classroom. After the collection and analysis of data, work as a group to enhance instruction and share research by presenting at educational conferences.

Subject Specific

UNIT/CONCEPT DEVELOPMENT-- Have students create a unit or concept encyclopedia. The educator would need to set up pages for each topic that students would research, and the teacher would need to unlock those topic pages so that students would be able to edit the pages.

SCIENCE--Students could follow the latest research by linking RSS feeds to the wiki.

SOCIAL STUDIES--Students could link topics relating the unit of study to current events and scholarly articles or debate the election.

MATH--Students could take mathematical concepts and apply them to real world applications.

ENGLISH--Students could draft an essay as a class to demystify the writing process or analyze a text through different pages that focus on character, theme and background information.

ELECTIVES--Students could create pages that examine the cultures of native languages, collaborate on an architectural feature, host an online art or performance exhibit or discuss under-eighteen driving laws.

ELECTRONIC LINKS ON WIKIS

Check out the following websites that discuss wikis and education further by searching the titles through Google or open the electronic form of this newsletter sent to your email and click on the title links :

- [Get Wild About Wikis](#)
- [Ways to Use Wiki in Education](#)
- [Wikis in Education: Teaching Students to Share Knowledge](#)

Scholarly articles:

- [How to Use a Wiki in Education](#)
- [Wiki as a Teaching Tool](#)
- [Students as Contributors: The Digital Learning Farm](#)

iTunes U - Watch videos demonstrating how universities are using wikis:

- [Why Wiki?](#)
- [Wiki Basics](#)
- [Blogs and Wikis](#)

MAC TIP:

If you would like to open Adobe Acrobat files on your wiki in a web browser rather than downloading the file, use SAFARI.

NEXT ISSUE:
The World of Google



wikispaces
wikis for everyone

Be sure to sign up for a free wiki account and space; then, request membership from the [CFF wiki](#).